

EXCISE 129

E

ORIGIN/ACTION
ARA-10

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
AIRGRAM

POL 23- Quat

FOR RM USE ONLY

RM/R	REP	AF
1		
ARA	EUR	FE
NEA	CU	INR
		5
E	P	IO
		5
L	FBO	AID
AGR	COM	FRB
INT	LAB	TAR
TR	XMB	AIR
		5
ARMY	CIA	NAVY
3	16	5
OSD	USIA	NSA
34		3
PASS-2		75C

A-263
NO.
CONFIDENTIAL

HANDLING INDICATOR
DEPARTMENT OF STATE
BUREAU OF
INTER-AMERICAN AFFAIRS
OCT 23 1969

TO : Department of State

DEPT PASS: GUATEMALA (2)
DEPARTMENT OF STATE A-263

REVIEWED BY Egy DATE 7 OCT 1969

FROM : PORTIONS DENIED AS INDICATED
Amembassy GUATEMALA

DATE: 10-13-69

SUBJECT : INTERNAL SECURITY Monthly Report of Incidents,
September 1969

REF :

1. Drenched by torrential rains and devastating floods early in September which seriously impeded surface travel, Guatemala experienced a low level of political violence during the first half of the month, continuing the experience of August. Later in the month, however, the reported level showed a substantial increase lifting the monthly total once again into the middle of the normal range. The first days of October indicated that this trend would persist, and made August's record low look more and more like an anomaly. The key factor accounting for the September surge lay in the PGT/FAR's Anniversary Celebrations, but as news once again flowed in from the South Coast and Northeast it brought tidings of renewed violence in those areas as well.

2. Although the PGT/FAR may not have completed all its projects designed to celebrate the Party's formal founding on September 20, 1949, it did: (a) just miss killing a National Police officer; (b) apparently place a concussion-type bomb at a house in Zone 9; (c) spread tire-puncturing tacks on a main street at rush hour; and (d) liberally painted "PGT" on walls and signs in Escuintla. The electrically detonated claymore-type device that almost took the life of Captain German DE LEON Orellana at 10:30 on the morning of September 30 was the most sophisticated of the attacks. Known to guerrillas by the code name Zecaton he used [REDACTED] in 1967-68, DeLeon and his two bodyguards were travelling in an unmarked car bearing regular plates when the blast occurred. He was slightly injured by the shards

1969 OCT 21 AM 11 05

COPYFLO-PBR

CONFIDENTIAL

FOR DEPT. USE ONLY

☐ In ☐ Out

Drafted by: POL:DHCI
Clearances: POL:DHCI
POL:FSiVa

Contents and Classification Approved by: POL:LABazzullo

POL-I:FSiVa

DECLASSIFIED

GUATEMALA A 263

2

CONFIDENTIAL

from the windshield; his bodyguards escaped. This is the third attack on DeLeon. [REDACTED]

3. Several unexplained killings and arrests took place in San Marcos. On September 17 a group of men gunned down a PID leader. Police later reported the arrest of two brothers at a nearby finca and claimed to be on the trail of the rest of the band, but security forces never produced a motive for the assassination. On September 11th they reported arresting two people in Malacatan charged with attempted sabotage--again details have not appeared. A week after a farm laborer mysteriously disappeared on September 29, authorities found his battered body with the right hand missing. Elsewhere on the South Coast, one finca owner was killed near Retalhuleu on September 22; another near Mazatenango on the 23rd. The motives remain unknown.

4. From the Northeast came word that two comisionados militares had ambushed and seriously wounded a man on September 29. Security forces reported both were arrested. Less than a week later fifteen members of the victim's extended family appeared in Guatemala City claiming that the comisionados in Chiquimula had made life impossible and had forced them to move. It should be noted that the Christian Democratic Party managed to hold a moderately well-attended rally at Chiquimula early in the month. Party leaders said later that while many people received none-too-subtle warnings to stay away, no party leaders were threatened and the meeting proceeded smoothly.

5. At least one of three newsworthy robberies committed during the month may have been the work of terrorists, but we have no confirmation of their participation. Of the three, only the September 19 hold-up at a Drive-In Bank located in Zone 11 netted a sizeable booty--some Q15,000. The smoothly run operation bore the characteristics of a FAR attack.

6. While security forces are making public more arrests in what previously were mysterious murders by "unidentified men" (for example the arrest of two comisionados militares in Chiquimula) at least one catch during the month brought disrepute to the force. On September 24 the National Police announced the arrest of four men accused of what appeared at the time (October 1968) to be the senseless machinegun killing of a family running a cantina in Mazatenango. Although six more of the group still are being hunted, police said that three of those captured were ex-policemen--one the ^{ex}2nd Chief of the Department of Suchetepequez.

COMMENT: The data on the chart show a marked drop in Guatemala City, the one area of the country where strange incidents and

DECLASSIFIED

CONFIDENTIAL

DECLASSIFIED

CONFIDENTIAL

ATEMALA A 263

3

crimes are normally well-covered by the media. If, as is believed by some, terrorists decided to stringently limit activities, the data probably reflect a fairly effective command and control capability within the City, and lesser control in rural areas.

DAVIS

A handwritten signature, possibly reading 'MD', is written below the name 'DAVIS'.

CONFIDENTIAL

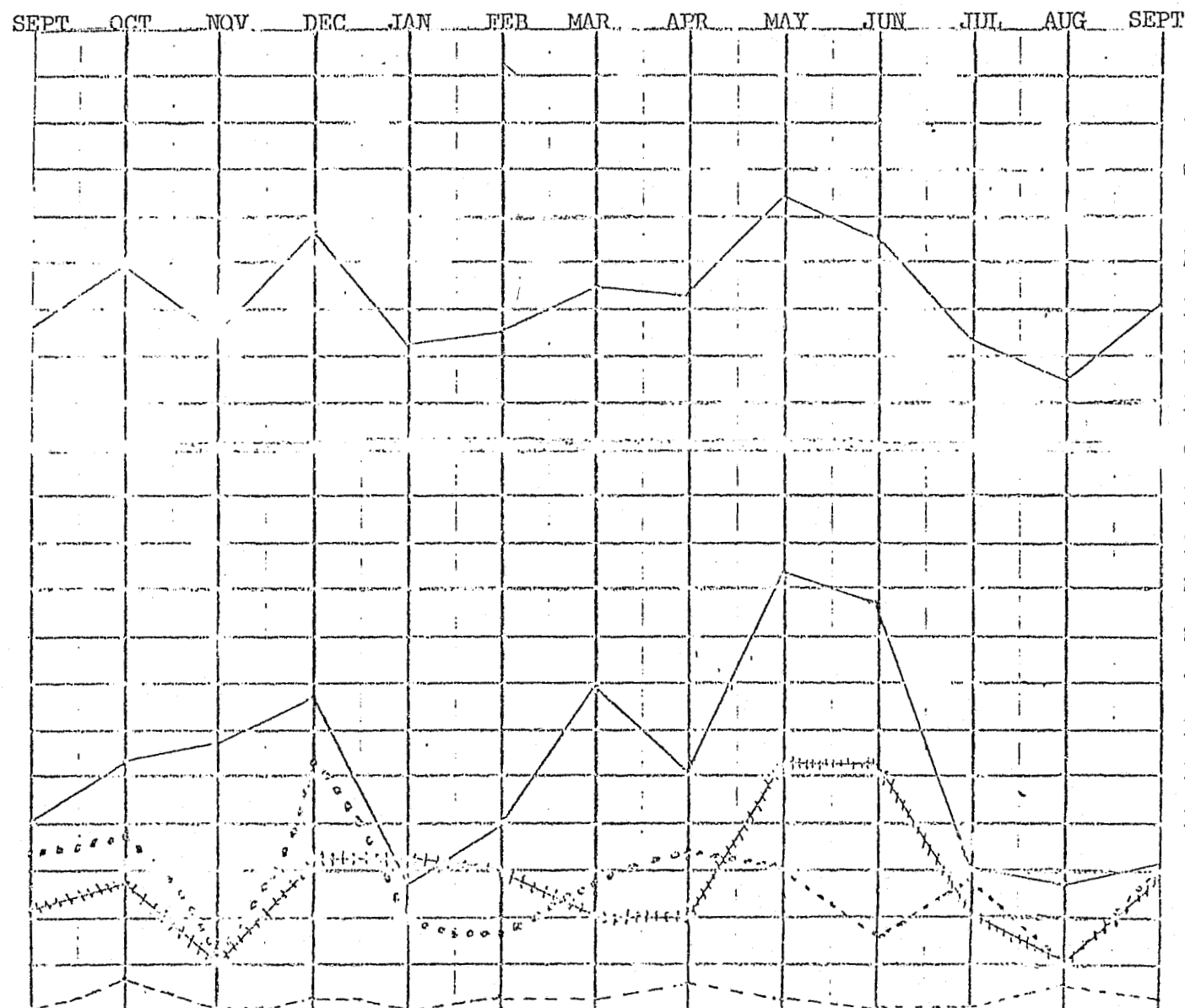
DECLASSIFIED

CONFIDENTIAL

(1)

MONTHLY FREQUENCY OF TERRORIST RELATED INCIDENTS BY REGION
SEPTEMBER 1968 - SEPTEMBER 1969

A-263
Guatemala



Total 30

Capital 10 (2)

East 10 (4)

South Coast 9 (3)

Highlands 1 (5)

(1) For purposes of this graph both acts of violence includes shootings, bombings, etc., and assassinated bodies

(2) Capital Area: Sacatepequez, Guatemala

(3) South Coast: San Marcos, Quezaltenango, Retalhuleu, Suchitepequez, Escuintla, Santa Rosa

(4) Eastern Region: Jutiapa, Jalapa, El Progreso, Zacapa, Chiquimula, Izabal

(5) Highlands: Totonicapan, Chimaltenango, Huehuetenango, El Quiche, Baja Verapaz, Solola

CONFIDENTIAL